

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-13 /159 W

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P R 121513Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8608

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 856

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3262; B) PRETORIA 3265

1. LOCAL REACTION TO CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS IS BE-
GINNING TO BE REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND PRESS
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EDITORIALS. GENERAL REACTION IS ONE OF DISMAY BUT

THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT SHOOTINGS WILL HAVE ANYTHING LIKE TRAUMATIC POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF 1960 SHARPEVILLE INCIDENT.

2. DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE, J.T. KRUGER, HAS RE-ITERATED HIS "GREAT SYMPATHY" FOR RELATIVES OF DEAD MINERS AND FOR INJURED POLICEMAN, AS WELL AS HIS STATEMENT THAT POLICE FIRED IN "SELF-DEFENSE". HE ADDED THAT HE WAS "NOT AWARE AT THIS STAGE" OF ANY INCITEMENT BEHIND RIOT -- PERHAPS THE KEY TO THE RELATIVELY DIS-PASSIONATE VIEW MOST WHITES HAVE TAKEN TO EVENTS THUS FAR.

3. LT. GEN. T.J. CROUS, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE-DESIGNATE, ELABORATED ON KRUGER'S CONCEPT OF "SELF-DEFENSE". HE SAID POLICEMEN HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW ANTI-RIOT DRILL WHICH THEY LEARNED AT POLICE COLLEGE. THIS CALLED FOR AN ESCALATING RESPONSE TO CROWD PROVOCATIONS FROM BATON CHARGE, THROUGH TEAR GAS, TO GUNFIRE. POLICE ONLY FIRE SHOTS IF LIVES OF POLICEMEN ARE ENDANGERED AND ALL OTHER METHODS OF CONTROLLING CROWD HAVE FAILED, HE SAID.

4. WESTERN DEEP LEVELS GENERAL MANAGER ALGY VON HOLDT HELD PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 12 IN WHICH HE REITERATED ESSENTIALS OF STATEMENT ISSUED EARLIER (REFTEL B). ONLY NEW ITEMS MENTIONED BY HIM WERE: A) THAT MINING COMPANY WILL HOLD INVESTIGATION INTO RIOT AND SHOOTINGS "TO FIND THE RING-LEADERS WHO ATTACKED THE MINE'S HOSTEL BUILDING AND THREATENED WHITE OFFICIALS WITH STICKS AND STONES", AND B) THAT MOST OF THE BLACK WORKERS AT WESTERN DEEP LEVELS ARE FROM THE TRANSKEI AND LESOTHO.

5. PRETORIA NEWS EDITORIALIZED SEPTEMBER 12 THAT AN IMMEDIATE AND EXHAUSTIVE INQUIRY WAS NECESSARY TO ENLIGHTEN PUBLIC ABOUT EVENTS AT CARLETONVILLE. NEWS SAID PUBLIC WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF WORKING AND WAGE CONDITIONS LED TO THE DISCONTENT AMONG MINERS AND ALSO REASONS WHY POLICE OPENED FIRE. IT CONTRASTED CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS WITH "SENSIBLE, LOW-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KEY TACTICS" EMPLOYED BY POLICE IN DEALING WITH NATAL STRIKERS EARLIER THIS YEAR.

6. JOHANNESBURG STAR CALLED THIS A DAY FOR SORROW AND FOR DEEPEST QUESTIONING SOUTH AFRICA HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN. STAR SAID THAT 13 YEARS AGO AFTER SHARPEVILLE, COUNTRY WAS ASSURED THAT POLICE WERE TO BE SPECIALLY TRAINED IN CROWD AND RIOT CONTROL. NOW IT WANTED TO KNOW, WHAT EXACTLY HAD POLICE

LEARNED? WHILE STAR RESERVED JUDGEMENT ON CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS, IT DESCRIBED DEPUTY MINISTER KRUGER'S STATEMENT THAT POLICE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOOT AS DEVOID OF AUTHORITY. IT SAID POLICE OUGHT TO HAVE HAD A CHOICE AND ENJOINED GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE NOT PLACED IN SAME POSITION AGAIN.

7. HOOFTAD'S SEPTEMBER 12 EDITORIAL DENIED THAT EVENTS AT CARLETONVILLE WERE "SECOND SHARPEVILLE". IT SAID SHARPEVILLE AND RELATED INCIDENTS HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (PAC) IN DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW WHITE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. PAC AGITATORS HAD INTIMIDATED AFRICANS INTO JOINING MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT, HOOFTAD SAID. IN CARLETONVILLE CASE, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT NATIONAL SECURITY WAS ENDANGERED. HOOFTAD ASCRIBED CARLETONVILLE EVENTS TO LOCALIZED LABOR UNREST, AND SAID THAT LIBERALS HERE AND OVERSEAS WHO MAINTAINED OTHERWISE WERE DOING DISSERVICE TO SOUTH AFRICA.

8. AS MORE FACTS FILTER OUT, WE LEARN THAT SHOOTINGS PROBABLY TOOK PLACE EVENING SEPTEMBER 11 AND NOT DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS SEPTEMBER 12. TIMING OF SHOOTING AND NUMBER OF MINERS KILLED REMAIN UNCLEAR AND WILL ONLY BE ESTABLISHED AFTER FURTHER INVESTIGATION. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, LABOR STRIKES, GOLD MINING, CASUALTIES, LABOR DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR03271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730940/aaaabdar.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PRETORIA 3262; B) PRETORIA 3265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS
TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005